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as we are to the local autonomy of our States, Americans are apt to think the constitutional considerations involved in the question but little more complex than those involved in conferring statehood on a territory. If it be shown that in Ireland's case any plan of Home Rule must inevitably bring about profound modification of the constitution of the British Empire, going even to the extent of change of its fundamental character, it will at least appear that the question is not one to be settled off hand nor upon half knowledge, and also that the needs and wishes of the Irish people are not alone to be taken into account.

If the inclusion in this collection of the final discourse on the sword require for its justification Sir Frederick's jesting misapplication of Bracton, his readers will readily accept that or any other excuse for so agreeable an evidence of his versatility. Few men lack even a latent spark of martial ardor and this may easily interest a wider circle of readers than any other lecture in the volume.

EDWARD V. RAYNOLDS.

New Haven, Conn.

A TARIFF PRIMER: The Effects of Protection upon the Farmer and Laborer. By PORTER SHERMAN, A. M. Pp. 54. Questions of the Day Series. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1891.

MR. Porter Sherman's little book undertakes to refute the protectionist argument, particularly as regards the effect of the tariff on the farmer and laborer. The two main points considered are the doctrine of international trade and the effect of the tariff upon wages. His exposition is vigorous, and his conclusions that international trade, like other trade, must be mutually advantageous to the parties concerned, and that the term "balance of trade," as ordinarily used, is a meaningless phrase, seem sufficiently clear to convince any tariff babes that may have got as far as the primer stage. He points out the source of wages, how they compare in free-trade and protectionist countries across the sea, and the natural causes that go to make wages high in the United States.

If the author could only get the ear of the "eternalists," as

President Andrews styles them, and they in turn would be willing to accept instruction "as little children," doubtless his logic would convince. But from the point of view of rational protection, such as Hamilton and Madison promulgated, and which is after all the bulwark of our tariff system, much remains to be desired. In a single chapter only (IV) does the author recognize this view of the question, and then merely to characterize it as the position of "some German economists." To Mr. Sherman the key to the whole situation is the principle of *laissez-faire*, and the only question, one as to whether protection is a wealth producer—as if the greater matter were not the distribution of wealth! He finds that protectionists themselves accept the statement that "the object and effect of protection is to divert industry into fields of employment into which they would not naturally flow if left to themselves." And this to the *laissez-faire* philosopher is equivalent to saying "into fields less profitable and less desirable." But is not this the real point at issue?

The question which should be asked, at least in a primer, is whether the tariff has at present anything to do with making or keeping our industry sufficiently diversified. And here Mr. Sherman has not very carefully guarded his argument; for instead of making it clear, for instance, that the higher wages in manufacturing industries in the United States are earned, he loosely states (p. 43) that the conditions of farming have made it necessary for the manufacturer to pay higher wages than he otherwise would. This is about all the concession the protectionist desires.

The trouble with the book is that the tariff problem is not quite so simple as Mr. Sherman supposes. Still, if it stimulates inquiry and investigation, it will probably do all that its author hopes for in the solution of this much-vexed problem.

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